



# Candle Safety

## Shining a Light on Fire Prevention

Seattle Fire Department Fire Prevention Division

### A Growing Concern

Candles have become a popular decoration for our homes. With all the different colors, shapes and scents available, candle sales have reached a \$2 billion a year industry.

While these numbers please candle manufacturers and retailers, they disturb fire departments across the country.

Nationally, candles were the cause of 8,690 residential fires, 104 deaths and 947 injuries in 1997.

In one instance last year the Seattle Fire Department investigated an unattended candle fire in a bedroom that caused an estimated \$45,000 in smoke and fire related damage.



### Rules to Follow

Candles are a beautiful decoration when used safely. Follow these basic rules to prevent a fire from starting in your home:

- Never leave a burning candle unattended.
- Keep burning candles out of the reach of children and pets.
- Never place a burning candle near something that can catch fire.
- Always use proper candleholders or bases when burning candles.
- Discontinue burning candles when there is 1/2" of wax left.

### For More Information

Call the Seattle Fire Department at (206) 386-1337.

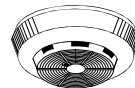
Or look on the internet at [www.nfpa.org/research.candles](http://www.nfpa.org/research.candles) or [www.candles.org/safety.htm](http://www.candles.org/safety.htm)

### Built-in Safety

Make sure your home has these safety features to help keep you safe.

#### Smoke Detectors

All homes should be equipped with working smoke detectors. There should be at least one on every level of the home.



Battery powered smoke detectors should be tested every month, and batteries changed at least once a year.

If you live in an apartment, it is your responsibility to maintain your smoke detectors, while your landlord is responsible for providing working smoke detectors when you move in.

#### Fire Extinguishers

Properly operated, fire extinguishers can help stop a small fire before it has a chance to grow out of control. Home fire extinguishers can be purchased from a hardware or home improvement store.



#### Evacuation Plan

Every family should develop and practice a home escape plan that includes every member of the household.

**Remember, even with these safety features, prevention is still the best strategy! Stop fires before they start.**